



City of Westminster

NEWS AND NOTES

Volume Five, Issue 2a



LETTER FROM THE MAYOR



Dear Residents:

The City of Westminster is getting ready to spring into Spring! The appearance of the PEEP Show at the Carroll Arts Center is a sure sign that Spring has arrived. The PEEP Show runs through **April 7** from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. each day. Visitors can vote for their favorite marshmallow peep creations—last year 190 creations containing 19,000 peeps received a total of 13,000 votes. Another sign of Spring is early bird pool membership go on sale **March 31** with a 20% discount.

The second annual Downtown Restaurant Week will be held from **April 19-April 27** and will feature breakfast, lunch and dinner specials from 13 restaurants—all for a price of \$5.13-\$30.13. Visit our Restaurant Week webpage at <http://westminstermd.gov/restaurantweek/> to access the special menus. The following restaurants will participate in Westminster Restaurant Week:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Birdie's Café | Harry's Main Street Grille | Papa Joe's |
| CUP Tea Bar and Café | J Café | Paradiso Ristorante |
| Furnace Hills Coffee Co. | Johansson's Dining House | O'Lordans Irish Pub |
| Giulianova's | Maggie's | Rafael's |
| | Sideways Café | |

Recreation & Parks is also hosting a Parent's Night Out event on **April 20th**, so be sure to check out their specials on child care while you enjoy a great meal Downtown!

And, an expanded Flower and Jazz Festival is coming up on **May 11th**. This year the Festival will occupy the blocks between Longwell Avenue to John Street and will feature 140 vendors. This festival is always held the day before Mother's Day and is sure to offer lots of Mother's Day gift ideas. Be sure to visit the City Booth and pick up your **FREE** Mother's Day flower!

April is also the month that the City begins its roadway paving contract working on Medinah Circle, Doral Court, Sawgrass Court, Cassell Close, Burning Tree South, Burning Tree North, and Long Valley Road. The City will be making roadway infrastructure improvements to the downtown area, installing 146 new handicapped ramps and renovating an additional 64 ramps over the next three months. This handicapped ramp project is totally grant funded by the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Maryland Department of Economic Development.

Be sure to add these events to your calendar and enjoy our Springtime events. See you around downtown.

Sincerely,

Mayor Utz

2013 General Election

The City of Westminster will conduct a general Election on TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2013 between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M., for the election of the Mayor and two members of the Common Council, all to serve four-year terms. Each candidate for election shall file a Declaration of Intention of Candidacy with the Acting City Clerk, at 56 West Main Street, accompanied by a \$25.00 filing fee, not later than 5:00 P.M. on FRIDAY, April 12, 2013.

Voters residing on the West side of Maryland Route No. 31 vote at the Community Center, 325 Royer Road, and voters residing on the East side of Maryland Route No. 31 vote at the John Street Quarters of the Westminster Fire Company. For additional information, please visit www.westminstermd.gov or call 410-848-9000.

Recreation Events: March, April & May

April-May-June

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT!

Start making plans, because we have the child care covered!

Kids will have a great time playing games, doing crafts, watching movies, eating pizza and making new friends!

5-8:30pm \$15/first child, \$5 /additional-same family.

April 20 and May 4 from 5-8:30pm
Longwell Municipal Center, 11 Longwell Avenue

"Junk In The Trunk" Community Yard Sale

April 27 7am-12 noon

Rent a parking space (or two!) in the lot of the Westminster Municipal Pool and make some cash selling all your old "junk!"

One man's trash is another man's treasure!
\$5 per space-Call Ben at 410-857-9072 to reserve your space today!

Westminster Flower & Jazz Festival

May 11, 2013 10am-4pm Downtown Westminster

Join us for a day of honoring moms, great music, good food, crafts, and, of course, flowers at this annual Westminster tradition. Admission and parking is free!

Flower and Jazz Fun Run 5K at Wakefield Valley Community Trails 9am!

For more information call 410-848-9161!

Mother Son Date Night!

May 1, 2013 6-8:30pm

Martin's Westminster, 505 Jermor Lane
Join us for our annual Mother Son Date Night as we step back to the 1950's for a Sock Hop! Enjoy music, dinner, dancing, photos and prizes! Tickets are \$40 per adult and \$20 per child. Call 410-848-9161 to order your tickets today!

Tie Dye Luau Party at the Pool!

June 28 5-8pm

Join the fun at the Westminster Municipal Pool while we luau poolside with DJ Daryl, tie dye tee shirts and swim!

Admission is free for pool members, \$7 for non-members. Call 410-848-9161 for details!

Small Fry Triathlon

May 18 10am

Wakefield Valley Community Trail & Boulder Park, Tahoma Farm Road

"Small Fries" will bike, run & "swim" through the obstacles at the Boulder Park in celebration of National Kids to Parks Day! Open to kids ages 3-5. \$5 to register. Call 410-848-9161!



Westminster Family Fitness Center

NO ENROLLMENT FEE*

***with this coupon**

Bring this coupon with you when you enroll as a new member of the Westminster Family Fitness Center and pay NO ENROLLMENT FEE!

Save up to \$150!

Cannot be combined with any other offer or discount.

Coupon expires June 30, 2013



Westminster Family Fitness Center

1 FREE ADMITANCE*

***With this coupon**

Come try us and see why we're one of the most popular fitness centers in Westminster!

Coupon expires June 30, 2013

Heritage Tree Program

Westminster is home to many heritage trees.

In 2012, 12 trees were Nominated for recognition as a local Heritage Tree.



Included in the nominations are:

- **White Oak**, 377 years old and 90' tall; listed in the *Maryland Tree Book* and the National Registry. A 2nd **White Oak** that is 80' tall.
- **Black Mulberry**, with a circumference of 22'9" and recognized as one of the "Six Great Trees of Maryland".
- **Silver Maple**, with a crown of 110' is recognized as a "Big Tree Champion of Maryland".
- **Wye Oak**, certified descendent of Maryland's famous Wye Oak.
- **Sycamores**, two sycamore trees one 90' tall, and another 50' tall.
- **Sugar Maple**, 70 years old and 75' tall.
- **American Holly**, 55" tall.
- **American Hornbeam**, 85' tall.
- **Weeping Purple Beech Trees**, 45' tall and located on the City Hall grounds.
- **Cucumber Magnolia**, 35 years old and 33' tall.

Helping to guide the City's efforts is the Westminster Tree Commission. The Commission was created by the Mayor & Common Council in 1972 and consists of 6 dedicated citizens supported by 2 City staff.

Links:

Tree Commission: www.westminstermd.gov/citygov/citygov_tree.html

Heritage Tree pictures: <https://picasaweb.google.com/WestminsterMD.gov/HeritageTreeProgram#5766206256852362354>

Heritage Tree Program: <http://www.westminstermd.gov/citygov/heritagetrees.htm>

For additional information contact Steven Sager, City Planner, at 410-848-7967 or ssager@westgov.com

Historic District Commission

The City of Westminster has a long standing policy of preserving our City's charming character, including our tree-lined streets and rich architectural heritage.

For many people, when they hear the phrase "historic building" they think that some major historic event took place at the building; i.e. "George Washington slept there." Others think of a prominent old structure such as our very own Longwell Mansion (City Hall).

Yet, for the most part "historic building" refers to a building's age and architecture or to an entire older neighborhood, such as Main Street. Many older houses and buildings do not set themselves apart from their neighbors; they do contribute to the architectural history of the neighborhood. Preserving these individual buildings preserves the appearance of the neighborhood.

For more than 30 years, with much success, the City has worked toward ensuring the preservation and integrity of our older buildings and neighborhoods. Our earliest efforts include the creation of a National Register Historic District in 1976. This District encompasses much of the older parts of town and includes buildings that were constructed from the late 1700s thru 1900s. To see a map of the District go to: www.westgov.com/citygov/documents/NationalRegisterDistrict.pdf.

The City encourages preserving the appearance of our older homes, neighborhoods, churches, commercial and industrial buildings. We offer property tax rebates to owners who maintain, repair and/or improve their property (exterior: painting, porch repairs, new roof, etc. interior: repair/replacement of a new furnace, plumbing or electrical systems and interior rooms).

The Westminster Historic District Commission has been guiding the City's preservation efforts since 1992. At any one time, seven dedicated citizens serve on the Commission. They bring their professional talents and personal interests to every Commission meeting and their efforts are dedicated toward the education and promotion of historic preservation. They offer design advice and approve the tax credit applications for the eligible repair, replacement and improvements on homes and buildings.

To be eligible for the property tax credit there are guidelines and an application/approval process that needs to take place. For some basic information go to: www.westgov.com/citygov/documents/BasicGuidelinesforWestminsterHistoricRehab.pdf.

For additional information, contact Steven Sager, City Planner, at 410-848-7967 or ssager@westgov.com.

Westminster Approves Residential Rental Housing License Program

On January 28, 2013, the Mayor and Common Council of Westminster approved Ordinance No. 839 that creates a Rental Housing License Program in the City of Westminster ("City"). A dwelling, dwelling unit or portion thereof, including a rooming/boarding house, is considered to be a rental unit by the Rental Housing License Program if it is occupied by any person other than the property owner in exchange for any compensation or monetary remuneration.

The City's Rental Housing License Program becomes effective June 1, 2013. Property owners who rent residential rental properties in Westminster must apply for and obtain a license from the City for each residential unit before it can be rented.

- ♦ The annual license fee is \$20 per unit and licenses are valid for one year only.
- ♦ The annual license period for the first year of the program runs from June 1, 2013 to May 31, 2014.
- ♦ The normal timely filing period for applications is 30 days. Ordinance No. 839 contains language that extends the timely filing period from 30 to 60 days for the first year of the program. If the City receives a completed application with the required fees by July 31, 2013, the annual licensing fee would be \$20 per unit. However, applications filed after that date would include an increased license fee for each unit based on the lateness of the filing. Notwithstanding the effective date of the program, property owners may submit Rental Housing License Applications and pay the required fees prior to June 1, 2013 if they so desire.

The Rental Licensing Program includes a "complaint driven" inspection process. You may file a complaint in by telephone at 410-848-9000; mail or in person at the City offices located at 56 W. Main Street in downtown Westminster; or email through the City's website at www.westminstermd.gov under Online Services - Client Services Request. Upon receipt of a complaint, the City will investigate the complaint after seeking permission from the tenant or property owner to enter the rental unit. If a violation is found, the Code Enforcement Inspector will provide the property owner with a notice of violation and a timeframe to correct the violation. If the issue is resolved, the matter is closed. If not, then the Code Enforcement Inspector will issue a citation and request a court date. The City may also revoke and/or deny the license, abate the violation and bill the property owner and reserves the option to seek a court injunction to gain compliance.

Ordinance No. 839 includes a "Habitual Offender" provision. A "Habitual Offender" is a person owning a residential rental unit, who has paid a fine or has been found guilty of violating provisions of the City's Property Maintenance Code on three (3) separate occasions within a 12 month period. If an owner of a residential dwelling unit becomes a "Habitual Offender", all fines levied by the City would be tripled and the annual rental license fee for a rental dwelling unit that is the subject of the "Habitual Offender" designation would be \$500 per unit.

During the month of February 2013, the City mailed information and a Rental Housing License Application to over 600 property owners of record that may be potentially affected by this new program. Additionally, a fillable PDF version of the Rental Housing License Application may be found on the City's webpage by clicking on "Online Services" and going to "Forms and Applications." Then go to the category "Rental Licensing Program" and click on the form "Rental Housing Licensing Application." There is also a form titled "Rental Housing License Application Continuation Sheet" if a property owner that has four (4) or more rental units at the same address.

Please also note that based on a case (McDaniel vs. Baranowski) that was decided by the Maryland Court of Appeals in 2010, a landlords in jurisdictions with rental licensing programs that may only evict a tenant if the rental unit is property licensed prior to the eviction action. A landlord "must affirmatively plead and demonstrate that he is licensed at the time of the filing of the complaint for summary ejectment in order to initiate the summary ejectment process". Based on the adoption of Ordinance No.839, this case will affect residential rental properties in Westminster effective June 1, 2013.

City staff held four public information meetings at Westminster City Hall, located at 1838 Emerald Hill Lane, so property owners and others could have the opportunity to ask questions and obtain information. They were scheduled for Tuesday, March 12th at 7:00 pm; Thursday, March 14th at 9:30 am; Monday, March 18th at 7:00 pm; and Wednesday, March 20th at 2:00 pm. These sessions were scheduled at different times on different days to maximize the potential for participation.

Further information about the Rental Housing License Program is available on the City's website at www.westminstermd.gov under News and Events – Rental Licensing – Frequently Asked Questions. The Rental Housing License Application and Continuation Sheet, in PDF-fillable format, are available on the City's website at Online Services – Forms and Applications – Rental Licensing Program. You may also call the Rental Housing License Program office at 410-848-9000 if you need further information.

Carroll Arts Center Events

Saturday, April 27, 7pm: Iron Ridge Bluegrass returns to the Carroll Arts Center. The 5-piece band is one of the region's premiere country music ensembles and they are dedicated to the preservation of the old-time traditional bluegrass in the style of Bill Monroe, Dr. Ralph Stanley and others. Tickets for the concert are \$15 for adults and \$13 for Arts Council Members, Seniors 60+ and Students 18 & Under.



Saturday, May 11: 2nd Annual "Paint Out Westminster" Plein Air event held in conjunction with the Flower and Jazz Festival from 9:30 – 3:30. This is an opportunity for artists to create work in a community setting and a chance for the public to watch how artworks are created. The event will be held rain or shine and artists will be stationed at various locations throughout downtown Westminster. Artists, 18 years and older interested in participating, can visit the Art Center's web site or call Susan Williamson at 410-848-7272. Artists must pre-register by May 1.

An exhibit and sale of the Plein Air paintings created during the event will be held from May 13 to June 11 in the new Director's Hall Gallery at the Carroll Arts Center. Admission to the exhibit is free.

Friday, May 17, 8am—8pm and Saturday, May 18, 8am – 3pm: yART Sale featuring 'previously enjoyed' artwork and art books sold at bargain basement prices. All items will be sold at "yard sale" prices with most being priced under \$10. Donors wishing to contribute art for the "yART Sale" will be asked to drop off their pieces Monday, May 13 from 10am – 4pm; Tuesday, May 14 from 10am—8pm; and Wednesday, May 15 from 10am—4pm. Donors will be given a receipt for tax purposes.

Sunday, June 16, 3pm: The Eric Byrd Trio presents "Unforgettable: A Tribute to Nat King Cole." The Trio will be joined by guitarist Dan Vogel for this special tribute concert. Tickets for the concert are \$16 for adults and \$14 for Arts Council Members, Seniors 60+ and Students 18 & Under.

10x10 Anniversary Exhibit

It has been 10 years since the doors of the Carroll Arts Center opened to the community. To commemorate this special occasion, the Arts Center will be hosting a unique exhibit that will feature more than 120 works of art, each measuring exactly 10"x 10." Despite the uniformity in size, there is a wide range of styles and mediums including painting, drawing, printmaking, collage, sculpture, photography and mixed media.

All works are for sale for \$100 each, with 75% of the sale price going directly to the artist and the remaining 25% benefiting the Carroll County Arts Council.

(continued next column...)

(...continued)

The exhibit will be on view April 15 through June 7, 2013 and is sponsored by Tevis Energy.

The 10th Anniversary reception will be on Thursday, April 18 from 5:30-7:30 pm. Members and participating artists will be admitted free. Admission for others is \$10. There will be musical entertainment, screenings "Building on the Memories," a documentary about the creation of the Arts Center, a sumptuous hors d'oeuvres buffet and a cash bar. Guest are encouraged to wear "celebratory attire" to this anniversary event. RSVP's will be required for members as well as the general public by calling 410-848-7272.



6th Annual PEEPshow

March 28—April 7: Get ready for March Marshmallow Madness! The Carroll Arts will be hosting its 6th annual PEEPshow. There is sure to be a record breaking number of extraordinary sculptures, dioramas and mosaics on view in this sweet family event. Last year's event featured 190 incredible creations crafted from or inspired by marshmallow Peeps!

This wacky event has quickly become one of the most anticipated community events attracting more than 12,000 visitors from the region. Previous year's events have attracted amazingly creative entries, including a life-sized Lorax, The "Peep Panther," "Todd Peep," "Justin Peeper" magical monsters, movie characters and other clever celebrations of pop culture, fine art and play on words. In addition there are even stop-action "Peep" films shown in the Arts Center's art deco movie theatre. Last year's entries featured an astounding total of 19,000 Peeps! The public can vote for their favorites by purchasing vote chips that will be sold for \$1 each, 10 for \$5, 25 for \$10, 75 for \$25 or 200 for \$50. Last year more than 13,000 votes were cast! Awards to those receiving the top six highest votes will be announced on Sunday, April 7. All proceeds will benefit the Carroll County Arts Council. There will also be an array of PEEP® souvenirs and treats for sale as well.

PEEPS® are a confection created by Just Born of Bethlehem Pennsylvania. What started as a hand-made Easter candy back in the 1940's is now available for just about every major holiday and comes in a rainbow of totally unnatural colors. The candy has achieved an almost cult-like following and several large metropolitan newspapers across the country have organized similar contests.

The PEEPshow is sponsored by local orthodontist, Dr. Edward M. Goldman and New Windsor State Bank with support from Just Born. Admission to the event is free. Hours are 10 am to 7 pm daily, including Easter Sunday. Voting will end at 4 pm on the final day of the event.

HEART OF THE CIVIL WAR 150TH ANNIVERSARY



Carroll County Events 2013

16th Annual Maryland and the Civil War: A Regional Perspective

Sat., March 23 – 9:30am-3pm

Explore Civil War history with a keynote address, sessions, and exhibits.

Carroll Community College

1601 Washington Road, Westminster

410-848-6494 • hsc.carr.org



Corbit's Charge Ball - 1863 Masqued Ball

Sat., March 30 – 8pm-11pm

Evening of period dancing, dance instruction and light refreshments. For the experienced and novice dancer.

Period or formal attire is requested.

Westminster Family Fitness Center Gym

11 Longwell Avenue, Westminster

410-848-9161 • westminstermd.gov

(Under Recreation & Parks and Events & Programs)



"Finally Heard"

Fri., May 3 - 8pm • Sat., May 4 - 2pm

A play about six remarkable women who served their country in different capacities during the Civil War.

Carroll Arts Center

91 West Main Street, Westminster

410-848-7272

www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org



First Call Civil War Expo and Civil War Living History Reenactment

Sat., May 4 – 10am-5pm • Sun., May 5 – 10am-4pm

Exhibits, living history demonstrations, troop engagements, Civil War era musical performances, book signings, and lectures. Civil War troops recreate forgotten lifestyles.

Carroll County Farm Museum

500 S. Center Street, Westminster

410-386-3880 • www.carrollcountymuseum.org



"Lincoln"

Thurs., June 13 – 3pm & 7pm

Showing of the acclaimed film about Lincoln as he struggled with the continuing carnage on the battlefield while fighting with his own cabinet members.

Carroll Arts Center

91 West Main Street, Westminster

410-848-7272 • www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org



Images of the Civil War

June 13 – August 6

An Exhibit honoring the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War in Carroll County

Carroll Arts Center

91 West Main Street, Westminster

410-848-7272 • www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org



Corbit's Charge Commemoration

Fri., June 28 - 7pm

Commemoration and dedication at the battle memorial of the grave of Lt. Murray, CSA, along with the laying of a wreath.

Battle site walking tours will be available.

Church of the Ascension, N. Center St., Westminster

Sat., June 29 – 10am-8pm • Sun., June 30 – 10am-4pm

Civil War living history encampment, military and civilian demonstrations, period artisans and music, & more.

Union Mills Homestead & Grist Mill

3311 Littlestown Pike, Westminster

410-848-2288 • www.unionmills.org



Civil War Encampment & Living History

Sat. & Sun., July 20 & 21 – 10am-4pm

Union and Confederate troops camp along the Big Pipe Creek and recreate some of the days following the Battle of Gettysburg. Drills and skirmishes.

Union Mills Homestead & Grist Mill

3311 Littlestown Pike, Westminster

410-848-2288 • www.unionmills.org



800-272-1933
www.carrollcountytourism.org

For info on more Civil War activities in Carroll County, please call 800-272-1933 or go to www.carrollcountytourism.org.